

Affidavit Under 37 CFR 1.132

Docket No.: RUANA-001

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 3671

Examiner: Mayo, Tara L.

Serial No. 09/874,940

Filed: June 4, 2001

In Re Application of: Bruce M. Ruana

For: RELEASABLY ATTACHABLE GRIP

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 2/13/06 Signed Stephanie Davis

**AFFIDAVIT UNDER 37 CFR 1.132**

I, Al Shankle, am the President and CEO of Al Shankle Construction Company, a construction company formed in 1980. I formerly served as President of The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of California in 1987 and was a National Director of AGC of America. I have worked in the construction industry for over 42 years.

Throughout my experience in the industry, I have been involved in building safety. Hand-railing is an important aspect of building safety, as people occasionally need additional support, such as when they walk up and down a staircase.

However, hand-railing can be difficult to hold, as it does not provide an adequately secure gripping surface. Hand-railing can also be uncomfortable to hold, as it is typically made out of metal or wood. Ever since I began working in the construction industry, there has been an unsatisfied need for providing a grip on hand-railing that is both secure and comfortable. Previous attempts by others at providing a solution, such as texturing the surface of the hand-railing itself, have proven unsuccessful. These previous

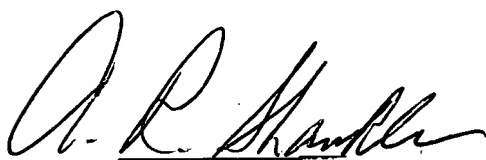
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attempts have not solved the problem of providing a grip on hand-railing that is both secure and comfortable.

Applicant's invention is the only product I have found that satisfies this long-felt need in the field. Applicant's product provides a grip having a skin layer that is to be axially wrapped around the outer surface of hand railing so that its edges do not overlap. The skin layer has a top surface that is continuous and flat, and the grip is adhered to the hand railing by a releasable adhesive that makes it easy to apply and replace.

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.



Al Shankle  
President/CEO  
Al Shankle Construction Company



Date